

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sunao TABATA et al.
Title: APPARATUS FOR IMAGE PROCESSING
Appl. No.: Unassigned
Filing Date: 03/23/2004
Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §1.56

Mail Stop PATENT APPLICATION
Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Submitted herewith on Form PTO/SB/08 is a listing of documents known to Applicants in order to comply with Applicants' duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §1.56. A copy of each listed document, except as noted below, is being submitted to comply with the provisions of 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

The USPTO has waived the requirement under 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2)(i) to submit copies of U.S. patents and U.S. patent application publications when citing and submitting an Information Disclosure Statements in a patent application filed after June 30, 2003 and in an international application that has entered the national stage under 37 USC §371 after June 30, 2003. Accordingly, copies of these types of documents are not being supplied in connection with this application. Reference is being made to Pre-OG Notice from Office of Patent Legal Administration dated July 25, 2003, *Information Disclosure Statements May Be Filed Without Copies of U.S. Patents and Published Applications in Patent Applications filed after June 30, 2003.*

The submission of any document herewith, which is not a statutory bar, is not intended as an admission that such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application or that such document is considered material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56(b). Applicants do not waive any rights to take any action which would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove as a competent reference any document which is determined to be a *prima facie* art reference against the claims of the present application.

TIMING OF THE DISCLOSURE

The listed documents are being submitted in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97(b), within three (3) months of the filing date of the application.

RELEVANCE OF EACH DOCUMENT

The relevance of the foreign-language documents is described in the present specification.

Document A9 teaches that in a digital process copying machine, binary images are recorded in units of one block. Multi-valued images are subjected to fixed length encoding and then recorded using the same block unit as the binary images. Documents A7 and A9 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A10 teaches that images are subjected to fixed length compression in units of one block, and rotation processing is enabled based on the compressed data. Documents A4 and A10 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A11 teaches that collective determination is made as to whether a plurality of pixels are colored or not. In consideration of the results of this determination, individual determination is made as to whether each one of the pixels is colored or not, thereby determining whether an image is a colored image or not. Documents A1 and A11 claim priority based on the same first-filed application.

Document A12 discloses technology that determines whether an image is formed in specific color and encodes the image. If it is determined that the image is formed in the specific color, codes corresponding to the specific color area are created.

Document A13 discloses means for compressing images as color data and means for compressing them as monochromatic data. The brightness information of the compressed monochromatic data is larger in amount than that of the compressed color data.

Document A14 discloses means for estimating degradation which images may undergo when they are compressed in units of one block. When there is not sufficient remaining storage capacity at the time of recording, the information regarding blocks which are not much degraded is deleted.

English translations of the foreign-language documents are not readily available. However, the absence of such translations does not relieve the PTO from its duty to consider the submitted foreign language documents (37 CFR §1.98 and MPEP §609). English language abstracts are provided herewith.

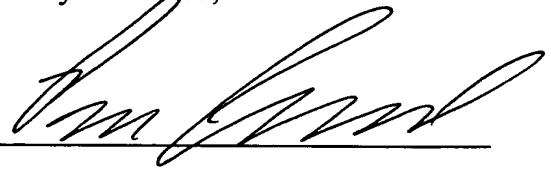
Applicants respectfully request that any listed document be considered by the Examiner and be made of record in the present application and that an initialed copy of Form PTO/SB/08 be returned in accordance with MPEP §609.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 CFR §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date March 23, 2004

By



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Substitute for form 1449B/PTO INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT Date Submitted: March 23, 2004 <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Complete if Known	
				Application Number	Unassigned
				Filing Date	03/23/2004
				First Named Inventor	Sunao TABATA
				Group Art Unit	Unassigned
				Examiner Name	Unassigned
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	016907-1653

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A1	5,721,628		TAKARAGI ET AL.	02-24-1998	
	A2	2003/0053087	A1	SEKIZAWA ET AL.	03-20-2003	
	A3	6,504,628	B1	KANNO ET AL.	01-07-2003	
	A4	6,342,950	B1	TABATA ET AL.	01-29-2002	
	A5	2003/0142376	A1	TABATA ET AL.	07-31-2003	
	A6	2003/0053115	A1	SHODA ET AL.	03-20-2003	
	A7	6,219,147	B1	ICHIMURA	04-17-2001	

U.S. PATENT APPLICATION DOCUMENTS						
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	U.S. Patent Application Document		Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Filing Date of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Serial Number	Kind Code ² (if known)			
	A8	10/310,800		TABATA ET AL.	12-06-2002	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS								
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document			Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Documents	Date of Publication of Cited Document MM-DD-YYYY	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Office ³	Number ⁴	Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
	A9	JP	10-271299	A	RICOH CO., LTD.	10-09-1998		Abstract
	A10	JP	11-69164	A	TOSHIBA CORP.	03-09-1999		Abstract
	A11	JP	3048158	B2	CANON INC.	03-24-2000		Abstract
	A12	JP	2537163	B2	CANON KK	07-08-1996		Abstract
	A13	JP	2520891	B2	CANON INC.	05-17-1996		Abstract
	A14	JP	8-32781	A	FUJI XEROX CO., LTD.	02-02-1996		Abstract

Examiner Signature	Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Unique citation designation number. ² See attached Kinds of U.S. Patent Documents. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.